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The Ottawa Field - Naturalists' Club

— Founded 1879 —

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Objectives of the Club: To promote the appreciation, preservation and conservation of Canada's natural heritage; to encourage investigation and publish the results of research in all fields of natural history and to diffuse information on these fields as widely as possible; to support and co-operate with organizations engaged in preserving, maintaining or restoring environments of high quality for living things.

Club Publications: THE CANADIAN FIELD-NATURALIST, a quarterly devoted to reporting research in all fields of natural history relevant to Canada; TRAIL & LANDSCAPE, providing articles on the natural history of the Ottawa Valley and on local Club activities five times a year.

Field Trips, Lectures and other natural history activities are arranged for local members; see "Coming Events" in this issue.

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Welcome, New Members

Ottawa Area

Colin Bowen & family
Dixon Dorland
Michelle Elder
Claude Giroux
Rex Hartley
Marina Kouri
Paul Martin
John Millar & family

James Miller & family
Buzz Nixon & family
Barry Perkins & family
Bob Reside
Kieth Seifert & family
Carol Stewart & Phyllis
McEwen
Valerie Wilson

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Amherst, Massachussets

Daniel Galley
Parry Sound, Ontario

R.J. Walker
Alma, New Brunswick

Eileen Evans,
Chairman,
Membership Committee.

OFNC Committee Members

The current membership of the seven standing committees and six other committees is given below. As listed, these groups represent 117 positions, 31 of which involve members who are on more than one committee. The total reflects a lot of effort being expended to keep the Club on track towards its goals. The practice of Vice-Presidents (name underlined in following list) participating as members of committees is proving useful; in the last year in particular, it is considered to have been well-justified because of the liaison that results, both ways, between the Council and the committees.

WKG

In the committee lists, the following symbols are used:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| (1) <i>roster subject to change</i> | s <i>Standing Committee</i> |
| (*) <i>Chairman</i> | p <i>power to add.</i> |

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M. Gawn
C. Hanrahan
J. Harrison

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Macoun What's What

Amber Stewart

Since September of 1986, the Macoun Field Club has been fortunate to host many talented and engaging speakers. We have also been pursuing individual studies in the Macoun Study Area, such as mapping tree stands, studying the water chemistry of some of the ponds, and observing animals and their habits.

To start off the year, in September Robin Collins gave a beautiful slide show of his trip to the Bruce Peninsula. Dr. Harington, from the Paleobiology Division of the National Museum of Natural Sciences, led a group of Macouners to Green's Creek to collect clay nodules containing fossils.

In October, the club featured talks about poisons in the environment. Pierre Mineau gave an interesting seminar about the effects of pesticides on birds. Dr. S. Redhead related anecdotes and realities of poisonous mushrooms to Macouners. With the same idea in mind, Dr. E. Haber told us about other poisonous plants.

Animals' preparation for winter was November's theme. Vic Solman discussed bird migrations and the danger that birds pose to airplanes. Donna Houghton taught Macouners about how mammals prepare for the oncoming winter. Dr. Ken Storey from Carleton University delivered a humorous speech which dealt with certain aspects of his research into how amphibians survive winter.

During December, the Macoun Field Club invited three speakers to share with us their views on the use of animals in research. Dr. J. Fryer from the Department of Anatomy at the University of Ottawa explained the merits of using animals in research. Dr. H. Rosell from the Canadian Council on Animal Care discussed the many different types of animal maltreatment. Michael Bloomfield of the Harmony Foundation, our last speaker, explained his opinion that certain sorts of animal research should be abolished.

Field trips during this time included day hikes to Luskville Falls, the Mer Bleue Bog, the Study Area, and Mary Stuart's farm at Pakenham.

Talks on arctic and marine environments are scheduled. In the meantime, we are working on our library: sorting and cataloguing our many books and periodicals. ▀

Amber Stewart is a senior member of the Macoun Field Club.

If You've Got Kids, Think of the Macoun Club

Robert E. Lee

If you've got kids and their thirst for hunting frogs and watching birds is driving you to distraction, look into the Macoun Field Club for them. If the younger members of your family insist on bringing into your home creatures you'd rather not even contemplate, consider diverting their enthusiasm to a place where it will be welcomed. Think about letting them join a group of children and young people interested in and active in the world of the naturalist.

In the Macoun Field Club, boys and girls get out into the woods and swamps twice a month to learn and explore. There are both general interest outings and specialized field trips that are led by people with particular expertise in the study of birds, bugs and botany. The children are considered full members of The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club and, like the children of adult members, are invited to attend its field trips and lectures. In the Macoun Field Club, members are encouraged to carry out planned investigations in their own Nature Study Area in Ottawa's Greenbelt, and are assisted in their efforts.

Club members meet together once a week throughout the school year for a varied program of natural history talks and identification workshops. Speakers drawn from Ottawa's scientific and naturalist communities recount their own field experiences, explain their research programs, and present important and controversial issues related to the Club's interests. At each meeting Macouners talk over the events and sightings of the most recent field trip and report any unusual observations made in the course of the week. Members then have an opportunity to select books from the Club's large natural history library and to examine the specimens in its collections - collections to which they may contribute.

The Macoun Field Club is jointly sponsored by The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club and the National Museum of Natural Sciences, which provides a meeting room in the Victoria Memorial Museum Building at Metcalfe and McLeod Streets. Children in grades 4 through 8 meet Saturday mornings for one hour; high-school students meet Friday afternoons after school (4:30 to 6:00 p.m.). A newsletter outlining the Club's monthly program is available at the Museum's information desk. For further information, contact either the Macoun Club's current volunteer leader, Paul Hamilton, at 990-6436 (office) or The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club information number (722-3050 after 10 a.m.). ▀

The Other Spring-beauty

Ruth Partridge

Just as the receipt of the Stokes seed catalogue stirs thoughts of spring, so typing last year's field trip notes on a cold winter's day rekindles the excitement and fun of trips past and those yet to come.

One special day that stands out is May 10, 1986. Ross Layberry and I had had a very good day: lots of interesting plants, plenty of butterflies, and sun to boot. We were especially excited to have found, near Beckett's Landing, a good colony of more than 50 Nodding Trillium (*Trillium cernuum*) plants and thought this really the highlight of the day. Reluctant to quit, we decided to head slowly home, driving only side roads.

Still on the look-out for anything unusual, we couldn't help seeing a flash of pink on the road-verge. Upon closer examination, and with much jubilation, we found that we had come upon the *other* spring-beauty, the Virginian Spring-beauty (*Claytonia virginica*). We knew the Virginian Spring-beauty was listed as rare in Gillett and White's *Checklist of Vascular Plants of the Ottawa-Hull Region, Canada* (1978), but did not know just how rare until we spoke to Dan Brunton.



Figure 1. Virginian Spring-beauty near Luskville, Quebec, April 29, 1986. Photograph by Dan Brunton.

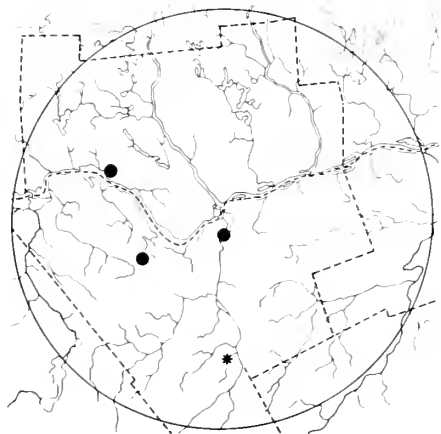


Figure 2. All records of the Virginian Spring-beauty in the Ottawa District known to date.

There are only three previous records from the Ottawa District: the colony found in Dow's Swamp by John Macoun in 1898 is no longer in existence, the one at South March discovered by the Franktons in 1972 appears to be gone, and the third colony, southwest of Luskville, found by Daniel Gagnon in 1979, is still intact (D. Brunton, personal communication 1986; Figure 1). To these we can now add a fourth location: two miles southwest of Kars, in Rideau Township, Ottawa-Carleton (R.M.), Ontario (the star in Figure 2 above).

The morphological characteristic by which the two species of spring-beauty may be most readily distinguished is the leaf shape. The Virginian Spring-beauty has long, smoothly-tapered, almost grass-like leaves, whereas in the Carolinian Spring-beauty (*C. caroliniana*) the leaves are much wider and paddle-shaped. At this particular site, the plants were almost 20 cm high, considerably taller than the Carolinian Spring-beauty, although this is not always the case.

The Virginian Spring-beauty likes to have a moist environment, often on clay soil, in woods, thickets and clearings. This site meets all these requirements. The plants were growing in an isolated patch of wet, low-lying bush in the midst of a farming area. Maples and poplars were the dominant trees, and the understory plants were largely Wild Black Currant (*Ribes americanum*) and Prickly Gooseberry (*R. cynosbati*) along with very abundant Bellwort (*Uvularia grandiflora*). The Virginian Spring-beauty had spilled out of this area onto the grassy road-verge, where, surprisingly, it was sharing its place with Star-flowered False Solomon's Seal (*Smilacina stellata*), which prefers drier areas.

Most plants were at the peak of their flowering time on May 10th, and I preserved several specimens for my collection and the Agriculture Canada herbarium (DAO). On May 18th, most plants had finished blooming, although one was still in bud. Dan Brunton visited the site on May 28th and collected a specimen with fully-developed seed pods.

My records for 1986 show that the Carolinian Spring-beauty was in bloom from April 6th (South March) to May 4th (between Low and Poltimore), so it is clear that the Virginian Spring-beauty blooms significantly later than the Carolinian Spring-beauty. This should be kept in mind if you go looking for more colonies of this beautiful, elusive plant.

I would like to thank Dan Brunton for confirming the identification of the plants, for the information on the earlier records, and for encouraging me to write this article. ▀

Lanark County Plant Records Requested

David White is preparing a list of the vascular plants of Lanark county. He would appreciate hearing from people who have information on rare species and special habitats in the county. If you have such information, please send it to David White, R.R. 3, Lanark, Ontario K0G 1K0.

Showy Lady's Slippers at Purdon Fen

In the middle of June, thousands of Showy Lady's Slippers are in flower in the Purdon Fen, 80 km southwest of Ottawa in Lanark County. The fen and surrounding wetlands have been purchased by public and private funds and are managed by the Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority as the Purdon Conservation Area.

The Conservation Authority has built a lookout, a picnic area, and a boardwalk through the fen so that much of the area can be viewed without trampling the fragile terrain. Be sure to stay on the boardwalk regardless of how much you would like to step off.

To get to the Purdon Conservation Area, follow a provincial road map to McDonalds Corners, then proceed northwest across the Mississippi River. Turn right on County Road 8 and drive 1.2 km to Concession Road 7. Turn left and drive 1.7 km to the Conservation Area.

Deletion of a Vascular Plant from the Ottawa District Flora

Stephen J. Darbyshire

Most additions to our local flora are of species normally well outside their native range. They have been introduced here, directly or indirectly, through human activity. Most extirpations are a result of habitat destruction, also through human activities.

The eccentricities of past Prime Minister McKenzie King are well known. He was undoubtedly responsible for the presence of Broad-leaved Meadow-grass (Chaix's Meadow-grass, *Poa chaixii* Vill.) and a number of other exotic plants at the Kingsmere estate in Gatineau Park. Kingsmere is one of only three places in North America where this large, ornamental grass has been found. In Europe, it is often planted in open woodlands to reduce erosion and to "improve" the appearance.

Bill Dore first found the single colony in 1951, and despite some variation in colony size over the years (see label data on specimens at the Agriculture Canada herbarium (DAO)), the grass does not seem to have dispersed from the original site. The last collection, by Bill, Jacques Cayouette and me, was taken in 1985. The colony consisted of a single clump near the edge of the woods at the arch ruins of the Bank of British North America. Repeated independent searches in 1986 revealed that the National Capital Commission has expanded the garden beds at Kingsmere, creating a rock garden on the wooded slope where King placed his woodland plants. The site where the Broad-leaved Meadow-grass occurred in 1985 has been completely obliterated.

Unless the grass has managed to disperse to some undetected part of the park, it is unlikely to be seen again as part of the flora of the Ottawa District. It is most unfortunate that the National Capital Commission has replaced the last vestiges of King's historic woodland garden with their own "improved" version. ▀

The Ragged Fringed-orchid in the Ottawa District*

Joyce M. Reddoch and Allan H. Reddoch

Some people think the Ragged Fringed-orchid (*Platanthera lacera*) is a scruffy plant growing in boring surroundings, but we find it to be one of the more interesting of the local orchids.

To begin with, this orchid appears to us to be an exotic-looking plant with strikingly elegant, green flowers having the sweet fragrance of hyacinths (Figure 1). The curious appearance of the flowers comes from the deeply-fringed three-part lip. Figures 2 and 3 show the different degrees of fringing that occur locally, and we would guess that the flowers in Figure 2 are more typical.

The Ragged Fringed-orchid is all the more intriguing for its apparent rarity in Eastern Ontario and the Ottawa District. In 1929, Morris and Eames noted that the only evidence of the Ragged-fringed Orchid in Eastern Ontario was a half-century old collection from Belleville. In more recent times, Whiting and Catling (1986) have evidence for only six collections in Eastern Ontario, four along Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River (including the old Belleville collection) and two from the Ottawa District. Upstream from Ottawa, neither Adolph Vogg nor Michael Runtz (1984; personal communication 1987) has found this orchid in the Arnprior area. From further west in Renfrew County there are two recent records, a 1973 collection at the National Herbarium (CAN) from the Pembroke area, and a 1982 find by Sheila and Harry Thomson (personal communication 1987) of 18 plants on their Mount St. Patrick property.

In the Ottawa District, the Ragged Fringed-orchid does not appear in either of the early plant lists (Fletcher 1893, Macoun s.d.), and the first herbarium specimen appears not to have been made until 1941. The second one did not come until 27 years later despite diligent collecting in the District during the 1940s and 1950s by Department of Agriculture botanists.

In the decade between 1965 and 1975, several dozen Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club members formed the Native Orchid Location Survey to seek out and record orchid colonies (Reddoch

* Part III in a series on Ottawa District orchids; Part II appeared in the last issue.



Figure 1. A typical plant of the Ragged Fringed-orchid flowering in July near the Mer Bleue Bog. The plant was 43.5 cm in height and had 23 flowers. Figures 2 and 3 illustrate the range of fringing on the lips of local flowers. Photographs from slides by the authors. Figure 4. The Ragged Fringed-orchid plant found by Sheila and Harry Thomson at the eastern edge of Gatineau Park. Photograph from a slide taken by Harry Thomson on August 3, 1965.

1977). During that time of intensive activity, 41 colonies of the Ragged Fringed-orchid were discovered in the District, mainly in the southeast (Figure 5). Colony sizes were generally of the order of one to 10 plants, but a few colonies were larger, the largest having 123 plants. Since that time, the number of colonies has dwindled, and we suspect that the work of the Native Orchid Location Survey coincided with a temporary population explosion.

Like most orchids, the Ragged Fringed-orchid has its own very particular habitat requirements. In the Ottawa District this orchid has usually been found in disturbed sandy sites that are open, grassy, moist to wet, and acidic. In the 1960s, such sites were abundant as a result of the formation of the Green-belt that left many abandoned fields and borrow pits. Further east, in the Larose Forest, there were many broad, open, sandy roadsides that also provided ideal habitat. But by the 1970s, the old fields were becoming covered with heavy shrub growth, pine plantations were shading out the Larose Forest, and roadsides in all parts of the District south of the Ottawa River were being maintained by herbicide spraying, leaving little opportunity for plants other than stress-tolerant grasses and sedges to survive. Only for about a decade was suitable habitat available, and now much of that habitat has disappeared.

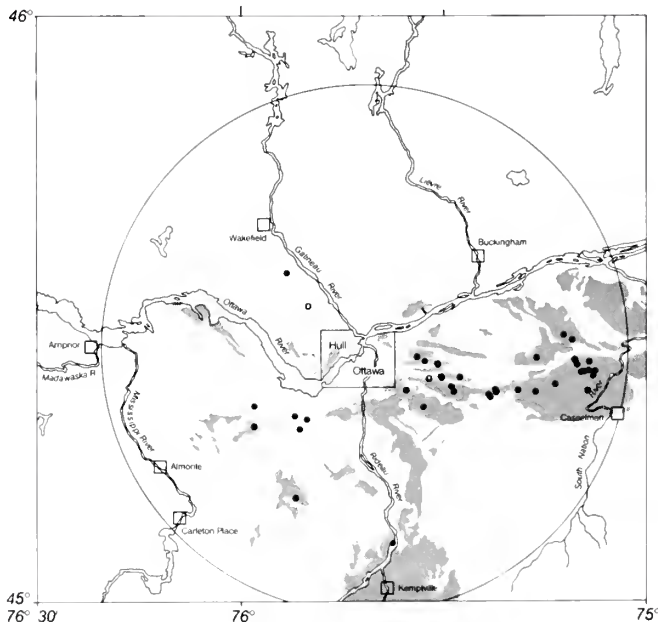


Figure 5. Ragged Fringed-orchid in the Ottawa District. Closed circles represent data from the Native Orchid Location Survey and O's represent the two herbarium records cited in the text (both at DAO). Areas of marine sands are shaded (GSC 1974).

Certain woodland edges seem to be another habitat in the District for small colonies of the Ragged Fringed-orchid. In 1980, Clarie and Enid Frankton found five plants in an opening in a cedar grove in the western part of Stony Swamp, and recently we have come across a couple of plants at the edge of a path through White Spruce woods in nearby Bridlewood. The first Ottawa District collection, mentioned above, came from a "mixed wood" near Old Chelsea in Gatineau Park. (The only other record from Gatineau Park, and indeed from Western Quebec, was made by Sheila and Harry Thomson in 1965 of a single plant at the eastern edge of the Park (Figure 4). This plant was growing in a moist, sedgey area similar to the open habitats mentioned above.)

The pattern of distribution of the Ragged Fringed-orchid in the Ottawa District (Figure 5) is unique to that species. There are two records from the Precambrian Shield north of the Ottawa River, a sprinkling west of the Rideau River, and a concentration east of the Rideau River. What all of these places have in common is sand - sand laid down 10,000 to 12,800 years ago by the Champlain Sea when the sea covered much of the Ottawa Valley or deposited by the Ottawa River in the sea toward the close of that period when the sea had withdrawn just to the east of Ottawa (GSC 1974). The two Gatineau sites and those in Stony Swamp-Bridlewood are on scattered beaches and shallow deposits of the Champlain Sea. The localities east of the Rideau River are mainly deltaic and estuarine deposits of the Ottawa River.

In summary then, the Ragged Fringed-orchid is generally rare in Eastern Ontario and Western Quebec but is capable of producing larger populations when ideal habitat becomes available. Interestingly, this is more likely to happen as a result of human activity in removing vegetation from sandy areas than by natural means.

There is one last interesting aspect of the Ragged Fringed-orchid in the Ottawa District. In 1970, we found two plants in a colony on the Dolman Ridge beside the Mer Bleue Bog that totally lacked the fringes on the lips (Figure 6), leaving the lips resembling those of the Tall Northern Green Orchid (*Platanthera hyperborea*). But all the other flower parts as well as the leaves and bracts were characteristic of the Ragged Fringed-orchid, and so we had to conclude that some mutation had occurred to produce two plants with fringeless lips.

Acknowledgements

Our thanks to Sheila Thomson for digging out Harry's slides and the Thomson field notes on the Mount St. Patrick and Gatineau Park plants for us, and to the Franktons for showing us their Stony Swamp colony. Thanks to Paul Catling for a second opinion on the fringeless plant illustrated in Figure 6.



Figure 6 shows the flowers of an abnormal, fringeless-lipped plant. Photograph from a slide taken by the authors.

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Some New and Interesting Vascular Plants in the Ottawa District

S.J. Darbyshire, M.J. Oldman and D.A. Sutherland

The following plants have all been detected recently in weedy situations (except *Echinochloa walteri*) in the Ottawa District. Although most are North American (aliens are indicated by an asterisk (*)), their presence and expected spread is related to various human activities. Of the seven species discussed, only *Echinochloa walteri* and *Eragrostis frankii* have not been reported previously for the District. Specimens may be found in several herbaria including those at Agriculture Canada (Biosystematics Research Centre, DAO) and the National Museum of Natural Sciences (the National Herbarium, CAN).

**Calamagrostis epigejos* (L.) Roth Chee Reed Grass, Feathertop
This grass was found by Clarie Frankton in the Stony Swamp just south of old Highway 17 between Bell's Corners and Kanata. The small stand on an elevated hillock in a pine plantation is of unknown origin but does not seem to be spreading.

Calamagrostis stricta ssp. *inexpansa* (Gray) C.W. Greene
Northern Reed Grass
= *C. inexpansa* of Dore and McNeill (1980, Grasses of Ontario)
Several small patches of this grass have been found growing in the south ditch along Highway 17 about 2 km east of Antrim at the very edge of the District.

Echinochloa walteri (Pursh) Heller Walter's Barnyard Grass
Although already known from Cobb Lake to the east of Ottawa, Ken Spicer of the Biosystematics Research Centre found another colony along the shores of Constance Creek near its mouth. It seems very odd that this grass is not known in the intervening distance, or south of the city.

Eragrostis frankii C.A. Meyer ex Steudel Frank's Love Grass
This grass is also known previously in the Ottawa District, from the collections of Bill Dore in The Burnt Lands. Recent collections include Concession Road 9, Cumberland Township, and the parking lot at Rideau River Provincial Park.

Panicum virgatum L. Switch Grass
Four clumps, about 50-80 cm in diameter, were found along the gravel shoulder of Highway 17 about 3 km east of Antrim.

**Ventenata dubia* (Leers) Cosson in Durieu
This annual grass has turned up in several locations in Ontario and elsewhere in Canada. Clarie Frankton found it in a roadside seeding in Nepean. A northern Mediterranean species, it is unlikely to become established this far north.

Juncus longistylis Torrey

This rush has only recently been discovered in southern Ontario, where it is invading saline highway ditches. In such a salty ditch along Highway 7 in Goulbourn Township, a small patch was found in 1986. It is primarily a species of the Great Plains.

□

Spring Treasure from the Gatineau: The Black Morel

Ross Anderson

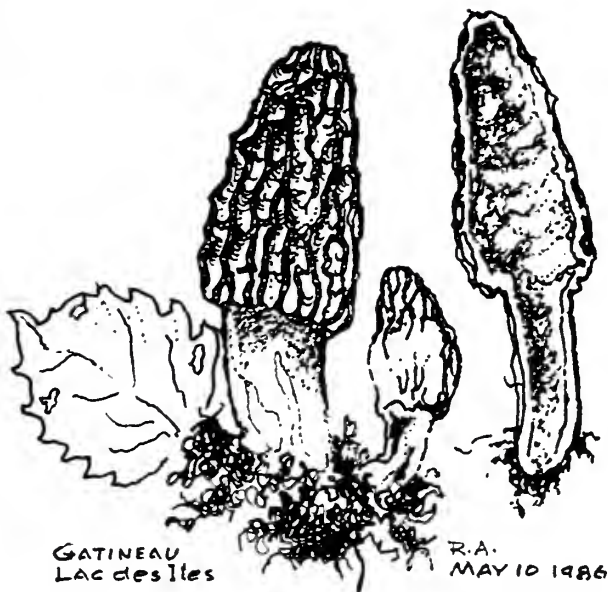
Like an Irish leprechaun, who will never tell you where he keeps his pot of gold they say, a serious mushroom hunter will never tell you where he finds morels*. So my story begins, "somewhere, beside a lake reflecting the sky over the Gatineau hills, in a clearing shaded by birch and aspen, we discovered the first morels". We picked a little basket-full, enough to make supper for two.

Katharine served them with wild and long-grain rice and tossed salad. The morels were split and blanched, then lightly sautéed in butter. We also shared a quarter bottle of Château des Charmes Canadian red wine, left over from a trip with Air Canada. The product was magical. The date was May 10, 1986. The mushroom was the Black Morel (*Morchella elata*).

Looking back in my notes, I find another record, May 11, 1983, from Lake Ontario and the comparison is interesting. The date is almost the same but the terrain was different and so is the mushroom. Although it was gray-black according to the notes, it was growing on the wind-swept sand dunes of Prince Edward County. When identified at the Biosystematics Research Centre in Ottawa, this morel proved to be not the Black Morel but the Yellow Morel (*Morchella esculenta*).

Aside from the colour, which is not too reliable, the difference in appearance between the two morels is the form of the wrinkle-like ridges which contain the spores and cover the surface of the cap. These ridges are more or less vertical and fine in the Black Morel, broad and random with deeper pits in the Yellow Morel.

* The first mention of morels and their relationship with Leprechauns occurs in Trail & Landscape Volume 17, March-April 1983.



The black morel, *Morchella elata*.

This sooty black morel wore the same colour as last year's leaves in the Gatineau Hills.



The yellow morel, *Morchella esculenta*

In spite of its name this morel from the sand dunes of Prince Edward County appeared gray black.

The best basis for comparison, in my opinion, is taste. Reading my notes from 1983 brings back fond memories, "... ate a good serving for supper, blanched then sautéed, dished up with rice and a bit of steak on the side. Result: a very delicate and subtle flavour, as good as any meat".

Maybe as good as a pot of gold?

* * *

An excellent reference on morels is *Morels, A Gourmet's Delight*, (Publication 1581), published by the Communications Branch of Agriculture Canada. It is free of charge and is also available in French. For your copy, telephone the mycology section of the Biosystematics Research Centre at 996-1665. ■

Butterflies of the Ottawa District 1986 Update

Peter Hall

Other contributors: Ross Layberry and Jack Holliday

This coming summer, butterfly watchers in the Ottawa District will be excused for going into the field with low expectations. The butterfly numbers of one year are often a direct result of conditions affecting populations in the previous year - and 1986 was not a banner year by anybody's standards. There were some new locations for uncommon species (Figure 1), but overall, numbers were down dramatically. In addition, everything of note appeared before mid-summer. By mid-July, it was time to pack up the net.

The culprit was weather conditions. The temperature rocketed up and down the thermometer in April with record highs and lows affecting newly emerged butterflies in the spring. May ended up with a record rainfall, and July was one of the wettest in memory. June saw frosts with average temperatures at least two degrees Celsius below normal. Butterflies, creatures of warmth and sunshine, can't be blamed for not putting in much of an appearance.

In late May, the international Lepidopterists' Society held its annual meeting in Ottawa. Field trips were put on for the members, and a few choice species were seen. High on the list was the EARLY HAIRSTREAK (*Erora laeta*), which many participants

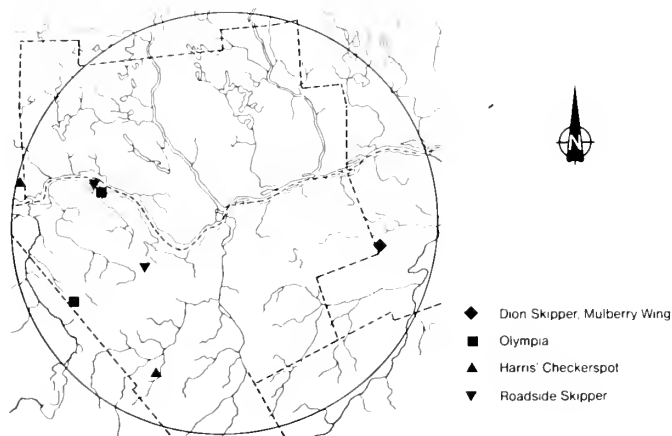


Figure 1. Significant 1986 Location Records for the Ottawa District.

had never seen in nature. Extensive searches resulted in the sighting of only one female on the road between Low and Poltimore in Quebec, the one reliable location in the recent past. A trip to The Burnt Lands on May 26th turned up an OLYMPIA (*Euchloe olympia*). This is a new location in the District for this very local species. A special trip organized to look for the BOG ELFIN (*Incisalia lanoraieensis*) in Alfred Bog saw none of this elusive butterfly in its only known Ontario location. One society member did catch another of the bog specialities, the JUTTA ARCTIC (*Oeneis jutta*).

In the middle of this dearth of butterflies, PH had his one memorable day for the summer. On May 17th, a visit to Constance Bay turned up numerous OLYMPIA (Figure 2) as well as first records at this location for two uncommon species, the ROADSIDE SKIPPER (*Amblyscirtes vialis*) and the CHRYXUS ARCTIC (*Oeneis chryxus*). A good colony of the ROADSIDE SKIPPER was also found by JH just west of Kanata.

In June, the only noteworthy records were made in several different wetlands in the District. Several of the extremely local BOG FRITILLARY (*Proclossiana eunomia*) were seen by RL and PH in Monty Wood's bog just north of St-Francois-de-Masham in the Gatineau Hills. (This species has been taken at this location previously.) In the Richmond Fen, a colony of HARRIS' CHECKERSPOT (*Charidryas harrisii*) was discovered by PH. This is the most southerly colony found in the District. RL also found a new location for this species near North Onslow, Quebec, as well as the very local APPALACHIAN EYED BROWN (*Satyrodes appalachia*).

With the July rains, mid-summer butterflies were hard to find, but RL did encounter two of the rarest skippers of the District in a sedge patch in the Larose Forest. The discovery of the MULBERRY WING (*Poanes massasoit*) and the DION SKIPPER (*Euphyes dion*) were first records for Russell County.

Mid-July also saw the appearance at Constance Lake of one of those rare to uncommon species that mysteriously disappears and then reappears at certain locations. The SILVERY CHECKER-SPOT (*Charidryas nycteis*) showed up during a rainstorm at this locality, the first time in many years it has been seen there. Another indication of low butterfly numbers was the almost entire absence of hairstreak butterflies, usually common in certain localities in July.

Migratory butterflies were present in relatively low numbers throughout the summer with RED ADMIRALS (*Vanessa atalanta*) and AMERICAN PAINTED LADIES (*V. virginensis*) showing up regularly, but few MONARCHS (*Danaus plexippus*) and only one PAINTED LADY (*V. cardui*).



Figure 2. An Olympia on a Sand Cherry flower at Constance Bay. This dainty butterfly is a relative newcomer to Ottawa. Photograph from a slide by Peter Hall. ▣

The Spotfin Shiner in the Ottawa District

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Buried in McAllister and Coad's *Fishes of the National Capital Region* are some minor embarrassments. One of these is the account of the Spotfin Shiner (*Notropis spilopterus*; Figure 1). The description was based on specimens stored in the Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto (ROM 12384 and 12385). The National Museum of Natural Sciences, Ottawa (NMC), has had several resident ichthyologists, not to mention a number of energetic students of fishes at local universities, but these ardent enthusiasts have not caught this species locally since the ichthyology collection was put on a firm footing in 1958. Spotfin Shiners are easily recognized as the only minnow in the area with one or two dark stripes between the last rays of the dorsal fin.

More important than the friendly rivalry with the Royal Ontario Museum is the possibility that the environment has changed for the worse since the 90 ROM specimens were collected at two localities in Bear Creek (or Brook) west of Bourget in Clarence Township, Russell County, on September 10, 1939. Spotfin Shiners are found mostly in large creeks and small to large rivers. They prefer clear, swift water over gravel or other

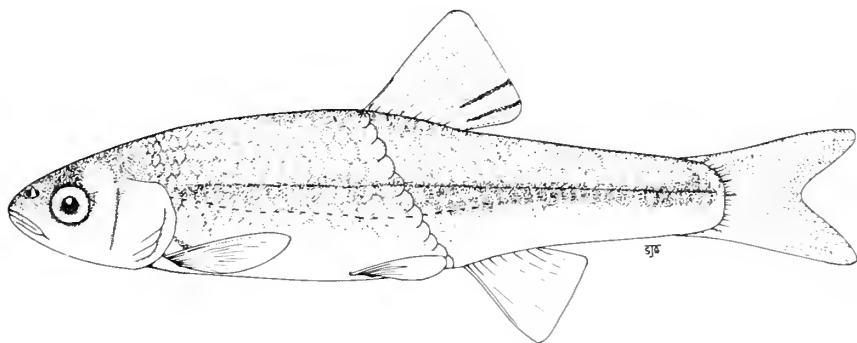


Figure 1. Spotfin Shiner (*Notropis spilopterus*), 77 mm total length, Bear Creek west of Bourget, 10 September 1939.

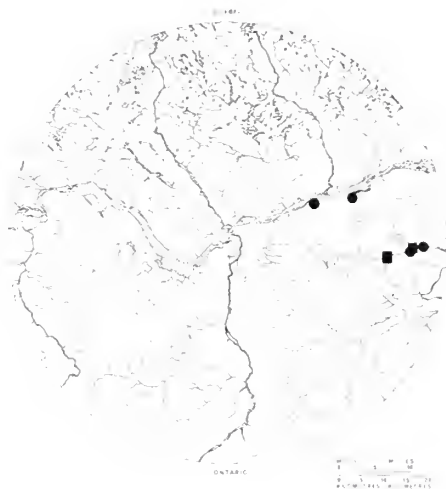


Figure 2. *Distribution of Spotfin Shiner in the Ottawa District (squares = ROM records, 1939; circles = NMC records, 1980-1986).*

firm material, but are said to be tolerant of turbid water, siltation and domestic and industrial pollution. Bear Creek is often turbid and flows through farmland, presumably with chemical runoff. I supposed that conditions must be none too good locally if no spotfins had been caught since 1939!

However, in the 1980s, collectors working for the National Museum of Natural Sciences have caught this species again in the Ottawa District from Bear Creek, Beckett's Creek east of Cumberland, and the Ottawa River west of Cumberland (NMC 83-0890, 83-0677 and 81-0514; Figure 2). Bear Creek seems to be the local habitat for spotfins as 13 specimens were caught there on September 7, 1982. The other two localities yielded only one fish each. A specimen has been caught in Bear Creek as recently as August 1986 (not kept). The rarity of this species in our area may be linked to the fact that it is at the northern limit of its range in this part of Canada, and populations may survive only where conditions are optimal.

These recent records of the Spotfin Shiner are a welcome confirmation that our environment can still support them and an indication that, even within a well-studied area like the Ottawa District, an easily-recognized species can survive undetected for over 40 years.

Acknowledgements

I am indebted to Dr. R. Winterbottom, Department of Ichthyology and Herpetology, Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto, for data on specimens in ROM collections. ▢

Birdwatching with a Prejudice

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It is fashionable for enlightened bird lovers to denounce such birds as the European Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*), the House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*) and the Rock Dove (*Columba livia*). These birds are guilty of being ubiquitous in man-made habitats and of having been introduced into the New World.

There is not shortage of anthropomorphic adjectives to describe the starling: aggressive, dirty, cacophonous, ugly and worst of all - the unpardonable sin - "intelligent". All of these alleged flaws can be found in many other species native to Canada, and yet we do not find these birds offensive. The starling, however, is different, since it was introduced into Canada, and that is its true crime.

If we examine the case of the starling closely, however, we soon realize that it is the habitat, not the bird, that was imported: an overabundant habitat that is expanding daily, and without which the starling population would be reduced to its simplest terms.

When it arrived in America, the starling did not change its habitat, but continued to settle in the ecological niche that it had occupied from time immemorial. On the contrary, it is the habitats of America that were changed as a result of human colonization. The starling is never too far from a cultivated field, a building or some other work of man.

Anthropogenic habitats, that is those modified by Man, have proved to be favourable for several species of birds, which find in them optimal living conditions. These are the species that tolerate open fields, varied structures, varying resources and frequent disturbances. The species that settle in such habitats are very often those which evolved alongside Man for thousands of years in the Old World. Birds that become accustomed to man-made environments grow in number amidst the human throng.

Starlings and Bluebirds

Some people delight in wrongly describing the starling as an unwelcome intruder which callously pushes out other birds.

Contrary to what some people like to believe and would have others believe, the dairy farms of southeastern Canada are not

the original habitat of bluebirds. Before colonization, during the age of the great climax forests, this bird was certainly absent from these regions. Its colonies were concentrated in the United States, at the fringe of the prairies. Deforestation allowed it to move very unnaturally to eastern Canada, where it made its home during the golden age of subsistence farming. However, it has since had to leave, as a result of changes imposed on habitat by commercial farming and the presence of starlings, which are also insectivores and are better suited to the new conditions.

The Little-known Flightless Duck

In America, starlings and the other species influenced by Man are often considered as living beyond the boundaries of nature. However, even Man is an integral part of the biosphere. Man has been constantly changing his environment in order to implant optimal living conditions for his own kind. However, the many other animal and vegetable species also modify their environments, each in its own way, and have been doing so since the beginning of time. It is these many changes that have shaped the environment we know today.

Whatever changes were made to Canada's bird fauna by the expansion of man-made habitats, they will never reach the proportions of those caused by the great phenomenon of glaciation, which covered much of Canada until about 10,000 years ago. To appreciate how recent the ice age is, remember that the Egyptian pyramids are close to 4,000 years old.

Following the retreat of the glaciers, each season brought a host of new birds: some came from the south, such as flycatchers and vireos, others from Asia, such as magpies and mallards, and still others from Europe, such as some gulls and cormorants. Each newcomer affected those already established, either directly or indirectly. What we consider to be species native to Canada are in fact a variety of different species that came from different places at different times.

We too often view the environment of pre-Columbian America quite wrongly as a closed, stable and fragile world that was disrupted by Europeans. Long before the Europeans came, however, their predecessors from Asia had already changed the face of America. The disappearance of the Great Auk (*Pinguinus impennis*) from the east coast of North America during European colonization is well documented; much less is known, however, about the fate of species which became extinct during the Amerindian colonization, such as the Flightless Duck (*Chendytes lawi*), bones of which have been found at prehistoric camp sites on the West Coast.

If the Starling Had Not Been Introduced

Long before its introduction into America, the European Starling population was already growing; as a result, it had already begun to occupy new territories provided by Man. In this manner, the starling settled in remote places, such as Iceland and the Azores.

We are often unaware that the first sighting of a starling in the wild in Canada was on the coast of Labrador in 1878, and coincides with an invasion of the species into Iceland. Similarly, the first sighting in Quebec, on the Lower North Shore in 1917, followed the arrival in Labrador of the Lapwing, another European bird, and occurred five years before the arrival of the New York starlings in southern Quebec. Today, the European Starling is still among the migratory European passerine birds recorded at the Alpha Marine Station halfway between Iceland and Greenland.

Given the creation and increase of available habitats, we can easily say that if the starling had not been introduced into America, it might have come here sooner or later, as did many other species before and after it. Only those brought by Man into regions that they could not have reached themselves can really be called "introduced species".

The Starling, an Authentically Canadian Species

What we consider the balance of nature is often nothing more than a still picture from the endless saga of evolution. Just as a bicycle cannot be in equilibrium unless it is moving, the balance of nature could not exist without internal changes.

Prejudiced bird-watchers notwithstanding, the European Starling is a bona fide participant in the current dynamics of North American bird life. ▣

* * *

For up-to-date information on bird happenings

in the Ottawa District,

telephone

THE OFNC BIRD STATUS LINE

225-4333.

Recent Bird Sightings



Bruce M. Di Labio and Christopher Dilabio

January-February 1987 Period

The new year brought no great changes in the weather. The mild weather of December that we had been enjoying followed through into January, with temperatures staying above normal for the first half of the month. By late January, the colder temperatures had found their way to the Ottawa area. February will be remembered for the record amount of sunshine recorded. Temperatures were for the most part normal, if anything about winter can be considered normal.

Again, as mentioned in the last *Recent Bird Sightings*, the Ottawa River hosted many interesting birds, at least for the first half of January. Without the open water it would have been an extremely boring winter. The wooded areas were very quiet as a trip to Poltimore - Low on January 24th confirmed. Only 10 birds were observed. Feeder watchers' comments ranged from no birds to a surplus. Overall, it was one of our quieter January-February periods in recent memory.

Grebes: Unusual was a winter plumage Red-necked Grebe on January 6th at Remic Rapids. The grebe was observed at dusk amongst a flock of roosting Common Goldeneyes.

Hérons: With mild conditions in December and early January, many small creeks remained open. At least two Great Blue Herons attempted to overwinter. One was observed on January 9th along Highway 417 near Walkley Road; the second was seen on January 29th feeding in a small creek along Regional Road 25 near Osgoode. The following day, the creek froze over and the heron had disappeared.

Waterfowl: During the first half of January a number of interesting ducks were sighted along the Ottawa River between Deschênes and Remic Rapids. Off the Britannia Filtration Plant, one individual of each of American Wigeon, Canvasback, Ring-necked Duck, Greater Scaup, Lesser Scaup and White-winged Scoter was observed off and on until mid-January. At Remic Rapids, a female Red-breasted Merganser was sighted on January 16th. Away from the Ottawa River, a Hooded Merganser wintered on the Rideau River at the bridge in Manotick. It could be seen sleeping on the ice amongst the Mallards. Wintering Common Goldeneye numbers were high with over 500 birds present at roosting areas

along the Ottawa River. Amongst the Common Goldeneyes, five Barrow's Goldeneyes (two females and three immature males) were present. The higher number of Barrow's sightings is hard to explain. It could be partly due to the increased skill of observers in picking the field marks that separate these birds from the more abundant Common Goldeneye. Of course, it could also be easily explained by an increase in the Barrow's population.

Raptors: Very few Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks were reported in comparison to last winter's high numbers. Rough-legged and Red-tailed Hawks wintered in small numbers. A Gyrfalcon was seen at Britannia on January 11th and again on January 29th. In both cases, the falcon was observed sitting on a large piece of ice above the Britannia Yacht Club. In addition, there was a number of sightings of a Gyrfalcon along both Cedarview Road and Woodroffe Avenue. At least one Merlin was observed in early January along the Ottawa River, possibly the same individual seen on the Ottawa-Hull Christmas Bird Count.

Gallinaceous Birds: Gray Partridges were again hard to locate this winter. Besides the reintroduction of Ring-necked Pheasants at Britannia, at least four Wild Turkeys were released at the Britannia Filtration Plant woods. Their future at Britannia is probably along the same lines as the pheasant.

Gulls: The mild conditions of early January were responsible for the unprecedented numbers of gulls present. Six species were observed, including the Common Black-headed Gull, which was last observed on January 3rd at Deschênes Rapids. High counts included 140 Great Black-backed Gulls and 50 Glaucous Gulls on January 15th at Remic Rapids. On February 22nd during a mild spell, five Ring-billed, one Herring and one Great Black-backed Gull showed up at Remic Rapids, only to return south the following day.

Doves: There still is no shortage of Rock Doves. Mourning Doves continued to overwinter in large numbers.

Owls: The highlight in owl species was the Northern Hawk-Owl and Great Gray Owl. Both were found on the Quebec side near Aylmer. The Northern Hawk-Owl was first observed on the Dunrobin-Breckenridge Christmas Bird Count on January 4th. It was present for the whole period. A number of out-of-town birders ventured up to see this owl. Birders came from New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts and Southern Ontario. The Great Gray Owl wasn't as reliable and was seen only a few times between mid-January and late February.

Woodpeckers: Both three-toed woodpeckers were hard to find. The only records were on the Dunrobin-Breckenridge Christmas Bird Count. At least five Northern Flickers wintered in the Ottawa District. The Red-bellied Woodpecker first observed in

December was still present at a Buckingham feeder through January.

Passerines: Another one of the few interesting feeder birds was the Carolina Wren. At least two were seen in the Ottawa District this winter. Bohemian Waxwings had another good winter in the District. The Lower Aylmer Road near the Champlain Bridge as well as along the Western Parkway were the best spots to find these birds. The Butcher Bird (Northern Shrike) was regularly reported by feeder watchers. House Finches continued to overwinter in larger numbers in the District. A mid-February survey revealed over 90 birds frequenting feeders. Reports were received mainly from city feeders, although a few were reported from outlying areas. Both Pine Siskins and Common Redpolls were observed regularly at feeders, with numbers increasing by early February. With the increase in Common Redpolls, a few Hoary Redpolls were observed.

Horned Larks are now being seen in large numbers. On March 3rd, nine Great Black-backed Gulls and two Ring-billed Gulls were seen at Remic Rapids. *The Globe and Mail* bird column reported American Woodcock at Long Point. Spring is on its way!
■

Ruddy Duck Breeding in the Ottawa District

Bruce M. Di Labio

Since 1983, the Ruddy Duck (*Oxyura jamaicensis*) has been observed at the Casselman Sewage Lagoons, approximately 50 km east of Ottawa, with increasing regularity during the summer months. Although these lagoons have been checked regularly since 1983 for breeding Ruddy Ducks, it was not until August 9, 1986, that a female with two young was observed.

The family group was seen on the open water, approximately 10 m from the edge of the lagoon. Both young stayed close to the mother, and I was able to watch them for a few minutes before they disappeared into the dense cattails in the western lagoon. The young were one-half to two-thirds the size of the female and showed the distinctive facial markings and bill shape of an adult Ruddy Duck. The overall appearance was that of a smaller version of the female, although much of the head and back area of the young was downy. This observation represents the first breeding record of the Ruddy Duck for the Ottawa District. ■

The Robins Came Back!

Ross Anderson

Remember the robins of Castle Hill Crescent? They appeared in *Trail & Landscape*, Volume 19, March-April, 1985, a family which grew up outside our dining room window in 1984. Recalling a comment from one of our bird guides that robins will rebuild on the same nest, readers were all invited to watch with us the following year.

The following year there were no robins! But in 1986, there were three breeding pairs, one in the same spruce tree but not on the same branch, one in the cedar hedge where we saw the last fledgling two years before, and one on a protected beam at the back of the house in view of the bedroom window.

We sincerely believe this was the same family in the first breeding year. And the pair on the beam *did* raise two families on the same nest, one after another in the same year. They did it by adding one complete layer to the original structure. So now we know. Robins *do* build twice on the same spot! ▀



A Colour-marked Shorebird at Ottawa Beach

Bruce M. Di Labio and Barbara Campbell

On July 26, 1986, Bruce Di Labio observed an adult colour-marked and colour-banded Semipalmated Sandpiper (*Calidris pusilla*) at Ottawa Beach, Nepean, Ontario. An orange dye was visible on the underpart (lower breast area) and was concentrated on the right side. As well as being dyed, the bird had one orange colour band on the right leg below the knee and a black flag below the left knee. The bird was observed from 9:00 to 9:30 a.m. as it fed with approximately 300 adult Semipalmated Sandpipers.

Weather conditions were poor, ranging from early morning, intermittent rain showers to heavy thunder showers. Winds were northeasterly at 8 km and the temperature reached 25°C. Condi-



Figure 1. The residue of the Semipalmated Sandpipers and other shorebirds at Ottawa Beach in the late afternoon of July 26th after the main movement had passed through. Photograph from a slide by Bruce Di Labio.

Table 1. Shorebird Surveys, Ottawa Beach, July 25-27, 1986

Species	July 25 18:00	----- 06:20	July 26 07:50	----- 16:20	July 27 06:40
Black-bellied Plover	-	-	3	-	-
Semipalmated Plover	6	5	7	2	2
Killdeer	19	11	17	1	3
Greater Yellowlegs	1	1	8	1	-
Lesser Yellowlegs	27	37	29	7	11
Spotted Sandpiper	3	3	3	2	1
Whimbrel	-	-	4	-	-
Ruddy Turnstone	-	3	21	-	-
Red Knot	-	-	20	-	-
Sanderling	-	-	5	90	2
Semipalmated Sandpiper	17	48	*375	**240	16
Least Sandpiper	9	4	4	1	1
Baird's Sandpiper	-	-	1	-	-
Pectoral Sandpiper	2	-	1	-	-
Short-billed Dowitcher	4	-	-	-	-
Common Snipe	2	-	-	-	-
Red-necked Phalarope	-	4	1	-	-

* includes colour-marked and colour-banded bird

** includes colour-banded bird

This data was collected by B.M. Di Labio during Canadian Wildlife Service shorebird surveys under the Maritimes / International Shorebird Survey program (MSS/ISS).

tions improved by the afternoon; however, the sky remained overcast throughout the day with clearing trends towards the evening. As a result of these weather conditions, a heavy fallout of shorebirds occurred. Table 1 illustrates shorebird numbers and species diversity over a three-day period from July 25 to 27, 1986.

Weather on July 25th was muggy with a maximum temperature of 30°C. Shorebird numbers were low with 10 species present between 6:00 and 6:30 p.m. The next morning (July 26th), there was definite shorebird movement: numbers slowly increased and by 9:00 a.m. 15 species were present, including Ruddy Turnstone, Whimbrel, Red Knot, Red-necked Phalarope and Baird's Sandpiper. It was at this time that the colour-marked bird was observed. The numbers and diversity began dropping by late afternoon as weather conditions improved (Figure 1), and continued declining throughout the next day.

A report of the colour-marked bird was made to the Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS) Shorebird Project and subsequently to the CWS Banding Office. Since no one in Canada was colour-marking this species with this particular dye in 1986, the American coordinator for shorebird banding was contacted and the following information was obtained.

The presence of the black flag indicated that the bird was banded in Venezuela. Recently, a method was developed to organize North and South American shorebird banding. Each country was assigned a colour to use on a plastic flag which is wrapped around a metal band (J.P. Myers *et al.* 1983).

Francine Mercier of Ottawa banded this bird in April or May 1986 at the Chacopata Lagoon in northeastern Venezuela (Figure 2). Of the approximately 5,000 birds banded in this location (of 15 shorebird species) in two and a half years, the Ottawa Beach sighting was only the sixth sighting reported. Three Semipalmated Sandpipers, one dowitcher species, and one Willet had previously been reported. Of the approximately 2,000 Semipalmated Sandpipers banded, it is noteworthy that this record was the first Canadian sighting.

A second colour-banded Semipalmated Sandpiper was seen later on July 26th, 1986. The bird was not colour-dyed but had five colour bands: three on one leg and two on the other plus a metal band. We are awaiting further details on its history.

These records illustrate the importance of recording the information observed in as accurate a manner as possible. Try to report the colours and the position of each band on the leg. It is useful to record both the weather conditions and the other species with which the bird is associating.

A final note! Please report your sightings. Send your reports to:

Canadian Wildlife Service
Banding Office
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0E7.

Acknowledgements

The authors wish to acknowledge Francine Mercier for providing the bird's banding history. It is interesting to note that she is from Ottawa and that her first Canadian recovery came from Ottawa. We also wish to thank Louise Damant for her ever-present patience and her willingness to type this manuscript and to Anne Harfenist for reviewing it.

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Figure 2. Map of North and South American showing banding location and recovery point of colour-marked Semipalmated Sandpiper. ▣

The Loggerhead Shrike: Status Report for the Ottawa District

Christine Hanrahan

Introduction

The steady decline of the Loggerhead Shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*) throughout most of eastern North America in recent decades has aroused considerable concern. The National Audubon Society (U.S.) sponsors the Blue List, which is "an early warning system for birds" (Tate 1986). The Loggerhead Shrike has been on this list since its inception in 1972 and support for its retention has been increasingly vociferous as more regions report declines (Morrison 1981). In the 1986 Blue List, Tate notes that this species is reported "down or greatly down everywhere east of the Mississippi River" and that it is a "candidate for prompt study".

While never an abundant bird, the Loggerhead Shrike was previously regarded as common to uncommon over much of its range. Today it can no longer be considered common anywhere in the eastern part of the continent with the exception of Florida, where it remains in reasonable numbers. South Texas along the Gulf Coast also has a relatively healthy population thus far. In 1986, COSEWIC (Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada) officially declared the Loggerhead Shrike a threatened species in Canada (Seasons 26(2) 1986). A "threatened" species is defined as that species for which "extinction is not immediate but still inevitable if present trends are not reversed".

Godfrey (1986) gives the range of the Loggerhead Shrike in Canada as "southern Canada (Alberta east to Nova Scotia)". He considers it a rare visitor to southern British Columbia and casual in northern Manitoba.

Of the three subspecies occurring in Canada, it is *Lanius ludovicianus migrans* which is found in Ontario (Godfrey 1986). This subspecies is usually referred to as "Migrant Shrike" or "Common Shrike" by the earlier writers (Eifrig, Macoun, Bent and others).

This article does not attempt to be exhaustive in its reporting of observations. Rather, it is a summary of published reports and personal records of selected active, experienced birders, which together give a good indication of the status of the Loggerhead Shrike in our area.

Range and Status in Ontario

The Loggerhead Shrike was first reported in Ontario near Hamilton in 1860 (McIlwraith 1894). As forests continued to be cleared, making way for farms and settlements, ideal shrike nesting habitat was opened up and the species expanded further into the province. By 1936, the Ontario range was given as "the cultivated areas of southern Ontario, north to Lake Nipissing and Ottawa"; it was considered a "rather uncommon summer resident breeding wherever it occurs" (Baillie and Harrington 1936). More recently, James *et al.* (1976) gave the status and range in the province as "a rare summer resident in west (Rainy River, Thunder Bay), and south (north to Sault Ste. Marie, Ottawa)".

It appears that a slight northern extension of Loggerhead Shrike range continued until the 1940s when this trend apparently was reversed (Cadman 1985). Since then, there has been a gradual range contraction in the province (*ibid.*). The shrike is no longer found in many areas where it previously bred. In the northern part of the province, it apparently is observed only infrequently, if at all, while in the southern portion it is now absent as a breeder from many counties (*ibid.*).

Nesting season reports for Ontario in *American Birds* for the decade 1975-1985 reflect the continuing downward trend of the species. Numbers rose occasionally during this time, but the trend was shortlived. In 1978, Goodwin commented optimistically that "there may be some recovery from the very low numbers of past years". But in 1979, his optimism proved unfounded and his report read: "Loggerhead Shrike showed no recovery" (Goodwin 1979). Nestings occurred in Pembroke, Ottawa, Frontenac and Simcoe Counties in 1982, and "sightings of possible breeders" came from "Sudbury, Bruce and Muskoka counties" (Weir 1982). By 1985, the regional picture was gloomy indeed: "Loggerhead Shrike continued to decline. Only four nests were reported" and of these, only three were successful (Weir 1985). In the following year, eight nests were found, of which six were successful (Weir 1986a, Weir 1986b, E. Ridgen, personal communication 1986).

Comparisons of historical records with recent observations for a number of sites in Ontario are illustrative of the significant decline of the Loggerhead Shrike in Ontario. Once regarded as a regular, if not common, summer resident of Toronto (Fleming 1907), recent observations indicate that it has been absent as a breeder for many years (Cadman 1985).

The same trend continues for most other areas where the Loggerhead Shrike was once found regularly. Wellington County reports it as very scarce (Brewer 1977); the Muskokas and Lake Nipissing area now report only occasional sightings of single birds (Cadman 1985). On Manitoulin Island, it was once common (Williams 1942) but is now regarded as uncommon (Nicholson 1981); one nest was found in 1983 (Weir 1983).

Until 1960, the Loggerhead Shrike was described as a common summer resident around Oshawa, but after that date its numbers declined sharply (Tozer and Richards 1974). In the Port Hope - Cobourg area it was considered fairly common to 1970, but since then it has become rare (MacDonald and John 1974).

According to D. McRae (personal communication 1986) local Brighton naturalists considered the Loggerhead Shrike to be reasonably common during the 1960s. Since then, however, numbers have decreased considerably, with only one bird sighted in 1986 (*ibid.*). Most reports of shrikes from the Presqu'ile area have been during migration; breeding is doubtful (McRae 1981).

The same story of decline continues in Peterborough where Sadler (1983) notes that it was once a "rather common resident" but is now sparsely observed. A nest found in 1985 was abandoned (Weir 1985).

Snyder (1941) recorded the shrike as breeding in Prince Edward County, but since the 1970s few birds have been seen and the once frequently-occupied nesting site on Big Island is now deserted (Sprague and Weir 1984). The Loggerhead Shrike was formerly "very common along the St. Lawrence in eastern Ontario" and inland in the counties of Leeds, Lanark and Hastings (Macoun and Macoun 1909). Clarke, writing in 1897, called the species abundant in Frontenac County and around Kingston (Quilliam 1973). Up to 1973 it was still considered a fairly common summer resident (*ibid.*). But by 1980 its status had changed to "uncommon summer resident" (Weir and Quilliam 1980). In 1986 five active nests were found around Kingston, but only three were successful (R.D. Weir, personal communication 1986). Nonetheless, even three successful nests are encouraging and certainly Kingston continues to be one of the strongholds in Ontario for the species.

Ottawa

History and Status

The date of the first Loggerhead Shrike sighting in the Ottawa District is uncertain, but by the late 1800s it was breeding in the vicinity of the city. Lloyd (1944) reports that young were taken in June 1885 "on the Quebec side of the Ottawa River near the city".

Early writers give conflicting reports of the shrike's status in Ottawa. Eifrig (1905) commented that the Migrant Shrike "is a common breeder here", while Macoun and Macoun (1909) stated that it was a "rare summer resident". However, the Macouns (1909) also remarked that "this bird appears to be more common or at any rate has been noticed more during the last 2 years in the neighbourhood of Ottawa". Writing in 1944, Lloyd

gave its status as "uncommon summer resident; breeds", a statement with which Pittaway (1969) concurred 25 years later. Therefore, apart from Eifrig's summary of the species as "common", it would appear that most observers over the years have considered it an uncommon summer resident and breeder in the area.

While the downward trend in the shrike population may have been slowly occurring for a long time, it seems that significant changes took place in the last 25 years (Cadman 1985). In the Ottawa area, numbers appeared to remain relatively stable until the 1970s when knowledgeable observers began to notice a decline. In 1976 it was noted that "the population of Loggerhead Shrike continues to exist at a level below previous norms" (Morin 1976).

With reports of decreasing shrike numbers emerging from many parts of eastern North America, Richard Poulin decided to monitor the species locally by locating nest sites and banding the adults and young. This study was carried out between 1975 and 1979, and while quite a few successful nests were found, overall the average number of nests per year was not high; 1979 was the best year with five nests found (R. Poulin, personal communication 1986).

Reports in both *Trail & Landscape* and *The Shrike* chart the continuing decline of the shrike in the Ottawa District. From 1976 on, shrike observations were, for the most part, discouragingly few. In 1977, "shrike numbers were depressingly low" (Gawn 1977), and in 1978 migrating shrikes "were seen in low numbers with few remaining to breed" (Gawn 1978). The picture appeared brighter in 1979 with reports of eight nests and 24 fledglings (Gawn 1979). Five of the nests were those located by Poulin.

During the 1980s, Loggerhead Shrike numbers seem to have fluctuated dramatically with some years reporting comparatively good numbers and others experiencing very few. Overall, however, the trend has been toward declining populations. Many of the reports were of single birds during migration; actual nests were scarce. There was a slight increase in sightings in 1981 (*The Shrike* 6(3): 10 (1981)), but 1982 saw very few birds and only one successful nesting was reported (Ladouceur and Di Labio 1982).

Five years of intensive atlassing during the Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas project (OBBA), 1981-1985, turned up shrikes on 17 out of 76 squares in Region 24 (Ottawa). Including squares from the three other adjacent regions which Ottawa also atlas-sed, there was a total of 22 squares with this species (Figure 1). Breeding was confirmed on 15 of these squares. In the first two years, atlas participation was low and coverage sparse, yet four squares in each year turned up breeding

shrikes. In 1984, hundreds of hours of intensive atlas work by dozens of people turned up only seven squares with shrikes. At this time, the shrike crisis was a known fact and atlasers had been asked to look actively for this species. In 1985, despite continuing heavy coverage, shrike observations came from just four squares; one of these, near Pakenham, was of a nest with five young. (This same area also had breeding shrikes in 1984.) Another nest was found in the White Lake area from which three young fledged successfully (E. Ridgen, personal communication 1986).

The most recent reports (M. Gawn 1986; Hanrahan and Di Labio 1986) are no more encouraging. Single birds were observed at two locations within Ottawa, and one family group of two adults and three young was reported near Munster. Another nest, near Arnprior, also successfully fledged four young (E. Ridgen, personal communication 1986). In April 1986, two adults were seen flying to the same tree in which a pair had nested the previous year near Pakenham. However, no further checks were made at this site, and it is not known if the pair remained to breed (E. Ridgen, personal communication 1986).

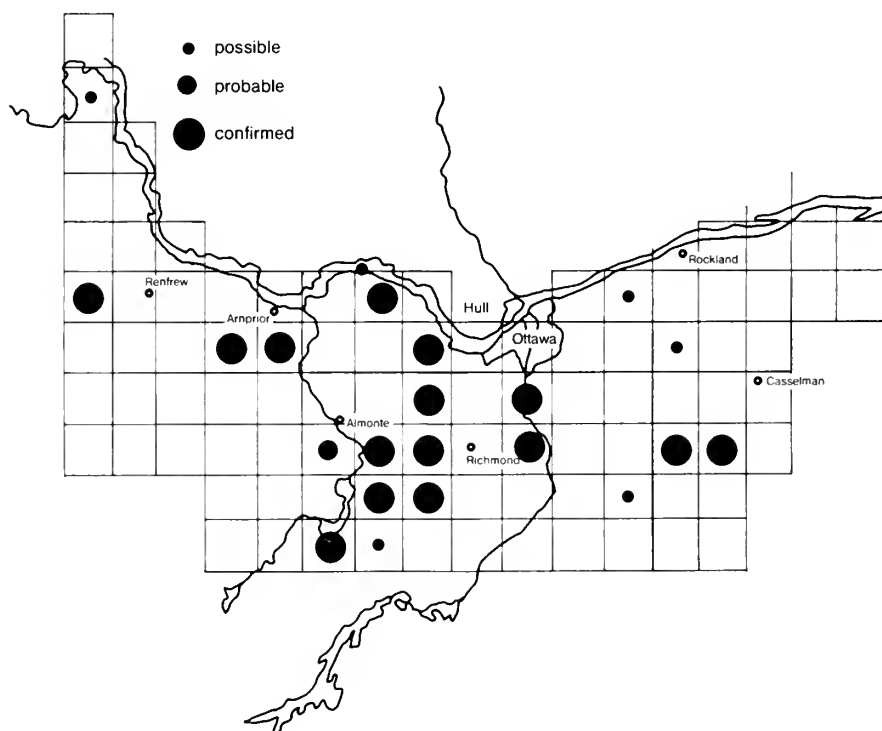


Figure 1. Loggerhead Shrike Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas data (1981-1985): Region 24.

Migration

According to James *et al.* (1976), the dates for seeing Loggerhead Shrikes in Ontario are March 20 to October 16. The majority of spring sightings in Ottawa occur in April and early May with scattered sightings during late March. An unusually early sighting was reported for March 6, 1983, when a warm front brought in a wave of very early migrants, including the Loggerhead Shrike (Gawn 1983). However, the average arrival time in our area appears to be the first week in April.

Just as shrikes arrive early, so they leave before many other migrants. Macoun and Macoun (1909) noted that the shrike leaves our area very early in the fall. A study of local observations for the past 30 years shows that by late August or very early September most shrikes have departed (F. Munro, St. Gawn, M. Brigham, personal communications 1986; data from *The Shrike and Trail & Landscape*). After this time, there are only occasional sightings, such as the two birds on September 17, 1972 (F. Munro, personal communication 1986) and the single bird on September 19, 1982 (*The Shrike* 7(5): 20 (1982)). A very late bird was reported on October 28, 1967 (M. Brigham, personal communication 1986), while an exceptionally late bird was apparently observed on November 14, 1982 (*The Shrike* 7(6): 19 (1982)).

Winter records for the province are few; James *et al.* (1976) notes a sighting on December 20 (year and location not given). In our area, one bird was reported on February 12, 1964, in Aylmer, Quebec, constituting our only known winter record. On this same day one of the observers saw a Northern Shrike (D. Brunton, personal communication 1987).

Breeding

Philopatry, or site fidelity, among shrikes is a well-documented fact. Bent (1950) observed that a pair will utilize the same locality year after year. Kridelbaugh (1983) in his central Missouri study area found that males showed more site fidelity than females. Of the banded males, 47% returned to the same area, while none of the females did (Kridelbaugh 1983). Some authors (quoted by Cadman 1985) have suggested that there has been less tendency to philopatry over the last few decades; however, so few nests are now being found that it is difficult to determine the validity of this assertion. But shrikes do not necessarily return to the same site, or even the same general area every year. There may be gaps of several years when an area remains unoccupied. Sometimes it will be utilized for two or three consecutive years before being abandoned temporarily, if not permanently. This may be tied in with the availability of the food supply in the area, one possible reason why sites are not occupied every year.

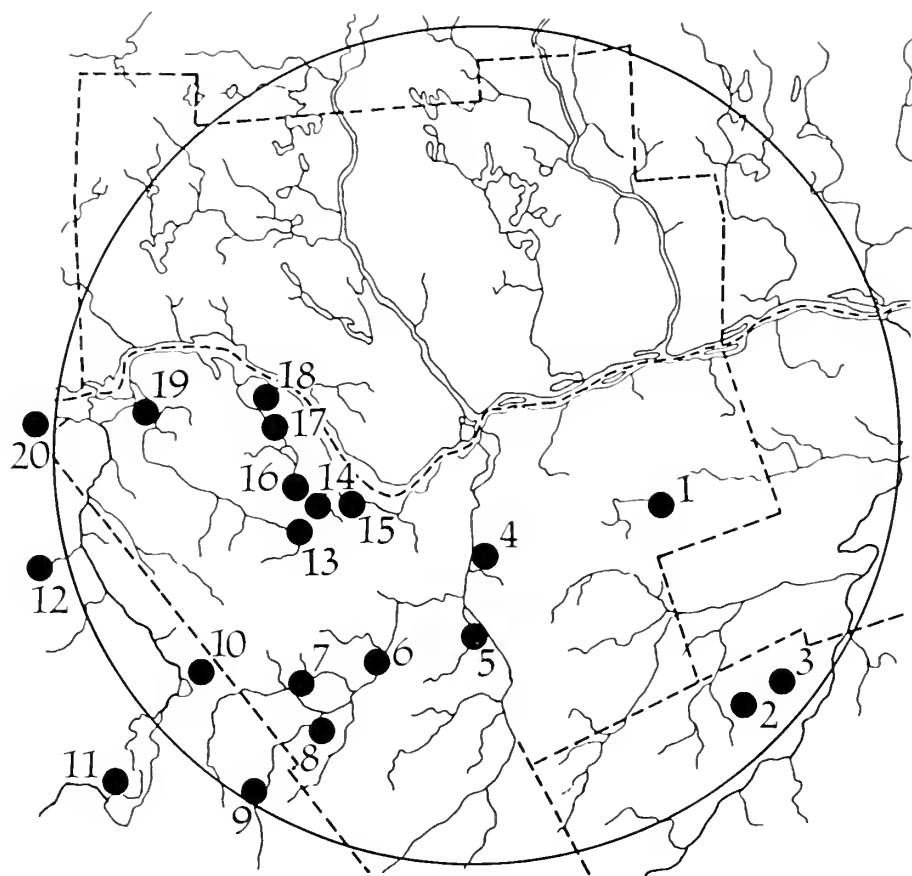


Figure 2. This map shows some of the better-known sites on the Ontario side of the Ottawa District where Loggerhead Shrikes are known to have bred within the last 10 years.

Appleton	10	Innisville	11
Arnprior	20	Kanata	14
Blacks Corners	9	Kinburn	19
Carlsbad Springs	1	Manotick	5
Carp	13	Morewood	2
Constance Bay	18	Munster	7
Crysler	3	Ottawa Airport	4
Dunrobin	17	Pakenham	12
Dwyer Hill	8	Richmond	6
4th Line Road	15	South March	16

Within the Ottawa area, many of the known shrike nesting sites (Figure 2) have remained unoccupied in spite of *seemingly* unchanged habitat. These locations are known to have supported nesting shrikes at least once, sometimes more, over the years. Regular checks of those areas within the Ottawa District itself were made in 1986, but only the Munster site was occupied and no new sites were found. A nest near Arnprior was found at a location not apparently utilized before (E. Ridgen, personal communication 1986).

The Loggerhead Shrike is an early breeder; James *et al.* (1976) give the egg dates for Ontario as April 1 to June 30. In the northern part of their range, shrikes begin nest-building in late April or early May. Kridelbaugh (1983) found peak nest initiation to be late April in Missouri. In Canada, they appear to "breed most often in May" (Cadman 1985). In the Ottawa area, "this bird begins its nest ... in April" and has completed its clutch "by the first week in May" (Macoun and Macoun 1909). Detailed nest data covering an extended period of time are lacking for this area; however, the available records generally agree with the Macouns' statement. For example, a partially completed nest found on April 19 had the female on the nest by May 3 (E. Ridgen, personal communication 1986); another nest on Corkstown Road was still being built on April 30 (D. Brunton, personal communication 1987). Nestlings or fledged young have been observed at many sites around Ottawa over the years, from late May to mid-June, indicating that nesting was initiated in late April to early May. Fledged young found later in the summer (July or August) may be the result of a second nesting undertaken when the first attempt failed.

Bent (1950) and other early writers state that shrikes are normally double-brooded even in the north. But single broods now appear to be the norm (Cadman 1985), although some recent studies show that a few birds will attempt re-nesting after successfully fledging young (Kridelbaugh 1983, Cadman 1985). However, most second nests are probably the result of a failed first attempt. Only in areas where weather conditions are favourable and the breeding season is long do shrikes appear to be double-brooded (Kridelbaugh 1983). Reasons for the reduction in double-brooding over most of the species' range are not understood, but this may be one reason why Loggerhead Shrike numbers are so much lower than before.

Loggerhead Shrikes have reasonably specific habitat requirements, needing open areas with hedgerows and thickets. Bent (1950) says that "all shrikes love open country, thinly wooded regions, scrubby country, clearings, meadows, pastures, thickets along roads ...". Godfrey (1986) agrees, noting also the importance of "tall shrubs, telephone poles and wires, and fence posts where adequate lookout posts and nesting sites are present". Pasture, or marginal farmland, appears to be the "preferred ground cover", and in eastern Canada at least, it is

often of "poor quality having emergent stones and sometimes stonepiles" (Cadman 1985).

Macoun and Macoun (1909) noted that most of the nests they found around Ottawa were in thorn trees in pastures, and Eifrig (1905) commented that nests were located in the "usual thorn thickets". Cadman (1985) cites a 1975 study by Campbell showing that hawthorn was the favoured nest tree for 111 out of 167 nests studied. All three nests in the Arnprior-Pakenham area during 1985 and 1986 were in hawthorns (E. Ridgen, personal communication 1986), as was the nest found by D. Brunton in 1967 (personal communication 1987). Shrikes will, however, use other shrubs and trees when hawthorn is absent. Records include oaks, cottonwoods, willows, spruce, fir, pine and apple trees (Bent 1950); wild plum trees (Eifrig 1905); and elm, grapevine, and white and red cedar (Cadman 1985).

Nests are usually located about 1.5 to 6 m off the ground (Godfrey 1986). Occasionally, some are built much higher; Bent (1950) notes that one nest was 12.5 m up in an elm. Kridelbaugh (1983) found that the average height of nests in his study area was 3.2 m. Nests found in this area generally occur in the height range given by Godfrey (1983) of 1.5 to 6 m above the ground. One nest near Arnprior, for example, was at a height of nearly 2 m.

The nest (Figure 3) is a bulky cup made of "twigs, weed stems, rootlets" (Harrison 1978), "string, branches" (Macoun and Macoun 1909), and lined with "plant fibres, soft cottony or woolly material, hair, feathers, rags or paper" (Godfrey 1986). According to Harrison (1978), it is built by the female, but Bent (1950) states that both sexes work on the nest. D. Brunton (personal communication 1987) dissected a nest found in 1967 and discovered that it was made of plant stalks, fine grass, twigs, mammal hair and feathers, and lined with soft downy material, which accords very well with the descriptions above.

Clutch size is four to six eggs (Bent 1950, Godfrey 1986). Kridelbaugh (1983) found nests having as few as three eggs and as many as seven, but the average number was five to six eggs. Clutch size appears to have remained stable according to most studies (Cadman 1985), but one report cited by Cadman (1985) noted that there were 5.35 eggs in "pre-1947 clutches at the R.O.M. and 4.89 from the period 1948-1975", suggesting that a decrease has occurred.

Incubation takes 13 to 16 days (Godfrey 1986) or 14 to 16 days (Harrison 1978); Kridelbaugh (1983) found the average incubation period to be 17 days. In the nest studied near Arnprior in 1986, incubation was underway by May 3 and young were hatched by May 24. Incubation is by the female only (Godfrey 1986, Harrison 1978).



Figure 3. A Loggerhead Shrike nest, two metres from the ground in a hawthorn tree. Photograph from a slide taken by G. Vincent Dunston in Halton Region in 1965.

The young are tended by both parents (Harrison 1978, Kridelbaugh 1983). Harrison (1978) reports that the young leave the nest at 20 days, which accords with Kridelbaugh's observation of a mean fledgling period of 19.1 days (Kridelbaugh 1983).

The nesting success for this species is relatively high. While we do not have detailed data on clutch size for the Ottawa area, observations of family groups allow for some speculation. Records for this area show that many families raise three to four young. Given an average clutch size of four to six eggs, the average hatching success is thus 85.3%, roughly the same as that noted by Kridelbaugh (1983). However, there appears to be a high "post-fledgling mortality" (Cadman 1985) which probably contributes to the relatively few birds seen in the area after the nesting period when one would normally expect to see more birds.

Shrikes are "almost omnivorous and will take what animal food is most readily available" (Bent 1950). Insects appear to form the bulk of their food, but mice and other birds, as well as snakes and frogs, are also taken (*ibid.*). Eifrig (1905) found a pair in Ottawa that had a Song Sparrow impaled on a thorn; only the head had been eaten. Shrikes are known to feed on other birds, although how regularly is not recorded, but among some of the species taken are Bank Swallow, Eastern Bluebird, warblers (species not given) and American Goldfinch (Bent 1950).

Possible Reasons for Decline

When analyzing the reasons for a species' decline, one must first consider habitat loss. Removal of hedgerows, thickets, shrubs and trees "has resulted in a decrease in shrike habitat" in parts of their range (Cadman 1985). But Cadman adds that "in the east shrike numbers are decreasing more rapidly than habitat is being destroyed", and concludes that "habitat loss is not the sole reason for the decline in shrike numbers". Certainly this is true of the Ottawa area where there is general habitat stability. Even with the increasing numbers of homes built along country roads near Ottawa, there still remains much good shrike habitat. In fact, many of the known shrike nesting areas appear to be virtually unchanged. Therefore, in this area at least, habitat loss cannot yet be considered a factor; whether this remains so in the future is another story.

The *migrans* subspecies, with which we are concerned, winters south of here through Illinois, Ohio, Missouri and southwards. There it utilizes habitat similar to that of its summer breeding areas. Good winter habitat must be available to support the shrike populations in these places, which host resident birds as well as winter visitors. But according to Cadman (1985), few studies have been conducted to determine to what extent viable habitat remains on wintering grounds. If there is a decrease in this habitat, then certainly the effects on our breeding populations could be severe.

Pesticide use as a factor causing declines in certain species, most notably raptors such as the Peregrine Falcon, has been well-documented. Over the past 15 years or so, a number of studies has been conducted to determine the effect of toxic chemicals on Loggerhead Shrikes. The results, predictably, are not encouraging. While more detailed research still needs to be carried out, it does appear that shrikes "being near the top of the food chain" are "likely to accumulate residues" of toxic chemicals (Cadman 1985). This then gives rise to problems such as eggshell thinning and a reduction in clutch and brood size, some evidence of which has been found in certain studies (*ibid.*). Although some areas of suitable shrike habitat in the Ottawa District are, so far, relatively free of chemical spraying, use of herbicides along roadsides where shrikes nest is something which warrants further study here. Use of chemicals in wintering areas could have adverse effects on shrike populations which breed here.

Reduced insect populations due to pesticides may also affect the availability of shrike food with negative consequences. However, with regard to their diet, there is "little evidence to suggest that the specialization of diet is of direct importance to population numbers" (Cadman 1985).

Shrikes frequently nest along country roads. Depending upon where the road is, the amount of traffic on any given day can be quite high, or minimal. Whether disturbance from this source has a negative effect on nesting success is not really known, but it is probably not a major factor. Further studies of this would be useful. However, a very real threat from traffic does exist. Because of their habit of feeding along roadsides, shrikes are susceptible to being hit by passing traffic. Shrikes feed on insects which are often found on or near roads; as well, "salt concentrations" on the road "may be attractive to rodent and insect populations" (Cadman 1985). Shrikes often fly low across roads, thereby increasing the danger of being struck by vehicles. Young birds are particularly unwary, and Campbell (in Cadman 1985) notes that road kills, especially of fledglings "are a major cause of death". Just how significantly road kills contribute to declining shrike numbers is not known, but Cadman believes they are an "important factor in the annual death rate of shrikes" and calls for further study of this phenomenon.

Disturbance in other ways by humans is a potential threat. While some studies seem to indicate that impact from human interference is minimal, others are not so sure. Kridelbaugh (1983) reports that only one out of 60 nests he studied was deserted. But Siegel (in Cadman 1985) notes that out of 37 nests studied, six were deserted. Photographers pose a real problem, often breaking down branches to obtain nest shots, handling the young, staying close to the nest site for very long periods, and in other ways creating unnecessary disturbances which can be harmful. Photographers should be careful about causing possible nest abandonment by any species, and particularly of a species considered threatened in Canada.

Shrikes are still shot, but presumably not to the same degree as in the early years of this century when "dozens were shot by J. Miner" (Cadman 1985). It should be remembered that Loggerhead (and Northern) Shrikes are protected in Canada under the Migratory Birds Convention Act, and shooting constitutes an offense.

While all of the above factors affect shrikes to a greater or lesser degree, no one cause can yet be isolated and considered the primary reason behind the declining shrike population. It may be more plausible to consider that several factors have combined to bring about the present situation. Obviously a lot of work still needs to be done before we can say with any certainty what the problems are, and how we should attempt to solve them. The Ottawa area is still one of the few remaining shrike strongholds in Ontario. Given that, we have a unique opportunity to study this species and perhaps help elucidate some of the problems surrounding it - before it is too late.

Acknowledgements

Many people have helped in one way or another to make this article possible. Richard Poulin deserves special thanks not only for allowing me access to his Loggerhead Shrike banding project data but also for taking the time to review the manuscript and offer valuable suggestions. Dalton Muir very kindly provided me with an early copy of the COSEWIC status report on the Loggerhead Shrike. Mike Cadman, who wrote the excellent report just mentioned, was kind enough to give me permission to use the very important data contained within. Without that, my work would have been much harder. Monty Brigham, Dan Brunton, Stephen Gawn, Doug McRae, Frank Munro, Eric Ridgen and Ron Weir all contributed a lot of valuable observations. I would especially like to thank Eric for the very detailed data that he took the time and effort to prepare.

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Loggerhead Shrike Survey — Volunteers Needed —

As you have just read (above), breeding range and population of the Loggerhead Shrike is shrinking - and nobody knows why. Therefore, a survey is being undertaken in Ontario to find out for 1987 how many Loggerhead Shrikes there are in Ontario, and where. The survey will determine which sites shrikes are using, and what kinds of areas they are using in comparison to areas they have used in the past. With this data, we may be able to gain some insight into whether the decline is related to factors on the breeding grounds.

Southern Ontario has been divided into 13 regions. Ottawa

is in Region 6, which includes Perth, Gananoque, Brockville, Cornwall and many, many places in between. It is a huge area, and if we are to census it adequately, we need a large number of volunteers.

If you are interested in taking part in this important project in the Ottawa area, please contact Christine Hanrahan (613-230-5290) as soon as possible. The project will run from April through the summer.

QUEBEC BREEDING BIRD ATLAS

The Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas was a tremendous success in the Ottawa region thanks to the efforts of many enthusiastic birders. Now you can all dust off your binoculars and get ready for more atlassing because the Quebec Breeding Bird Atlas is in motion. There are two more years left before the atlas period closes, and there are still dozens of uncharted squares within the 50-km radius of the Peace Tower just waiting for your observations. Quebec needs you and your atlassing savvy in order to make this as successful a venture as was atlassing south of the Ottawa River.

There are plans for Wednesday evening square bashes during June and July for local areas needing coverage. Those interested will meet at the Supreme Court Building on Wellington Street for 6:00 p.m. departure. We will pool our cars and drive to the areas requiring coverage.

The square bashes will be held on the following dates:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Destination</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Destination</u>
June 3	Buckingham	July 1	Lac Gilmore
June 10	Lochaber	July 8	to be announced
June 17	Thurso	July 15	to be announced
June 24	Perkins	July 22	to be announced
		July 29	to be announced.

For more details as they arise, keep tuned to the Bird Status Line at 225-4333.

If you are interested in participating on a square bash or if you want to take on a square yourself, please call Tony Beck at 224-1683.

All maps and guides will be distributed at no charge. Hope to hear from you soon.

Coming Events

arranged by the Excursions and Lectures Committee
Ross Anderson (224-7768), Chairman

Times stated for excursions are departure times. Please arrive earlier; leaders start promptly. If you need a ride, don't hesitate to ask the leader. Restricted trips will be open to non-members only after the indicated deadlines.

BIRD WALKS FOR BEGINNERS

The following series of walks (of three or four hours duration) is offered for novice birders. Binoculars are essential, and waterproof footwear is advisable.

<u>Saturday</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Leader</u>
2 May	7:30 a.m.	Britannia*	Ray Holland (225-9655)
9 May	7:30 a.m.	Britannia*	Tony Beck (224-1683)
16 May	7:30 a.m.	Vincent Massey Park**	Jeff Harrison (230-5968)
23 May	7:30 a.m.	Britannia*	Wright Smith (225-1811)

* Entrance to the Filtration Plant; Bus #18 stops here,

** Northwest corner of the parking lot near the Heron Road Bridge.

MAY EVENING STROLLS

These four informal walks are offered to expand members' general knowledge of local natural history. Children are most welcome on these outings. Insect repellent may be useful; wear waterproof footwear.

Tuesday STONY SWAMP
5 May Leader: Ellaine Dickson (722-3050 after 10 a.m.)
6:30 p.m. Meet: Lincoln Heights Galleria, northeast corner
by the garden centre, Richmond Road and Assaly
Road.

Thursday SOUTH MARCH HIGHLANDS
14 May Leader: Catherine O'Keefe (745-4441)
6:30 p.m. Meet: Lincoln Heights Galleria, northeast corner
by the garden centre, Richmond Road and Assaly
Road.

Tuesday STONY SWAMP (TRAIL #5)
19 May Leader: Bill Gummer (596-1148)
6:30 p.m. Meet: Lincoln Heights Galleria, northeast corner
by the garden centre, Richmond Road and Assaly
Road.

Wednesday VINCENT MASSEY PARK
27 May Leader: Joe Reiss (728-3603)
6:30 p.m. Meet: Vincent Massey Park, parking lot near the
Heron Road Bridge.

* * *

Friday OFNC SOIREE - POT-LUCK SUPPER
1 May Meet: Unitarian Church Hall, 30 Cleary Street.
7:30 p.m. Full details of the Soirée may be found in the
March-April issue of *Trail & Landscape*.

Sunday SPRING WILDFLOWER WALK
3 May Leader: Rick Killeen (744-5829)
9:00 a.m. Meet: front entrance, National Museum of Natural
Sciences, Metcalfe and McLeod Streets.
This trip will explore a local area to see some of
the early blooming species of the Ottawa District.
Bring insect repellent, waterproof footwear and a
light snack for this half-day outing.

Tuesday	OFNC MONTHLY MEETING
12 May	WILDLFLOWERS HERE, THERE AND EVERYWHERE
8:00 p.m.	Speakers: Harry and Sheila Thomson Meet: Auditorium, National Museum of Natural Sciences, Metcalfe and McLeod Streets. This presentation will feature a photographic ramble up and down the Valley, and further afield, with a dash of folklore and philosophy thrown in. Harry's splendid photography will be complemented by Sheila's engaging commentary.

Wednesday MIDWEEK TRIP TO MARY STUART'S FARM

13 May Leader: Mary Stuart (820-5220)

9:00 a.m. Meet: Lincoln Heights Galleria, northeast corner
by the garden centre, Richmond Road and Assaly
Road.

The route to Mary's farm near Pakenham leads past
rock outcrops of limestone, marble and granite. At
the farm, spring wildflowers await those free to
ramble on a lovely spring day. Bring a picnic lunch,
a thermos of hot water for tea, waterproof footwear,
binoculars and insect repellent. Telephone Mary the
day before for any last minute instructions.

Sunday SPRING BIRD COUNT

17 May Compiler: Tony Beck (224-1683)

Participate in the annual count of the spring bird
population within the 50-km radius circle of the
Ottawa District. For details, telephone the compiler.
(See the article in Trail & Landscape 20(4):
167-173 (1986) for the results of last year's count.)

Sunday MOTORCADE TOUR OF A BLUEBIRD TRAIL

24 May Leader: Carson Thompson (1-267-5721)

7:30 a.m. Meet: Sears, Carlingwood Shopping Centre, Carling
Avenue at Woodroffe Avenue.

Participants will assemble at the shopping centre and
after car pools have been organized, will set out for
the parking lot at the Perth Wildlife Reserve. The
signs for the Reserve can be picked up on the Rideau
Ferry Road off Highway 43 between Perth and Smiths
Falls. After arrival, the car caravan will wend its
way by country roads to the abandoned Mica Mines area
for lunch. (Bring your own.)

Carson Thompson is the manager of the Perth Wildlife
Reserve. Those wishing to participate should register
at least ten days in advance of the outing by
phoning the Club number (722-3050 after 10 a.m.).

Wednesday BIRDING WITH GEORGE

27 May Leader: George McGee (733-1739)

8:00 a.m. Meet: entrance gate to the Britannia Filtration
Plant.

Midweek birding for senior citizens or anyone lucky
enough to have the morning free. Bring binoculars
and insect repellent.

Sunday BUTTERFLIES AND WILDFLOWERS
7 June Leaders: to be decided
9:30 a.m. Meet: Neatby Building, Central Experimental Farm,
one block west of the Irving Place - Maple
Drive stoplight on Carling Avenue. Use the
parking lot west of the Neatby Building and
south of the greenhouses.

The visual display provided by the combination of
butterflies and wildflowers is hard to surpass for
natural beauty. Bring a lunch and a butterfly net if
you have one. For further information, telephone the
Club number (722-3050 after 10 a.m.).

Tuesday OFNC MONTHLY MEETING
9 June WILDLIFE '87: GAINING MOMENTUM
8:00 p.m. Speaker: Lynda Maltby
Meet: Auditorium, National Museum of Natural
Sciences, Metcalfe and McLeod Streets.
Lynda is Chief of Marketing, Program Analysis and
Evaluation with the Canadian Wildlife Service as well
as Secretary of the National Wildlife '87 Committee.
She is well known to Club members as the hard-working
Chairman of the Conservation Committee. Her illus-
trated talk will focus on the Wildlife '87 program,
in particular the impetus which led to its creation
and what it hopes to accomplish. Attention will be
drawn to the immeasurable value of wildlife and to
the environmental issues which threaten to destroy
it. Lynda will also discuss the plight of endangered
species in Canada and how a cooperative approach to
conservation can ensure success stories as in the
case of the Whooping Crane (the logo of Wildlife
'87).

June INFORMAL BOTANY OUTINGS
through Anyone interested in having casual botany outings
August during the summer months is asked to telephone the
Club number (722-3050 after 10 a.m.) to register
their interest. Trips will be organized according to
the response.

Saturday DAWN CHORUS
13 June Leader: Monty Brigham
5:00 a.m. Meet: Shirleys Bay Beach at the parking lot.
Monty is a master of the fine art of "squeaking" and
an expert on bird songs and calls. He has produced
several records to date. Bring binoculars and insect
repellent for this outing.

Sunday THE BURNT LANDS ALVAR

21 June Leader: David White (1-259-3135)

9:00 a.m. Meet: Neatby Building, Central Experimental Farm, one block west of the Irving Place - Maple Drive stoplight on Carling Avenue. Use the parking lot west of the Neatby Building and south of the greenhouses.

Alvars are open limestone plains which have remained virtually unchanged for thousands of years. The Burnt Lands alvar is a provincially significant natural area that supports a variety of unusual and interesting plant species. Bring a lunch and wear sturdy boots. Beware - certain areas are infested with Poison Ivy.

Saturday ALFRED BOG

27 June Leader: Don Cuddy

8:30 a.m. Meet: front entrance, National Museum of Natural Sciences, Metcalfe and McLeod Streets.

This extraordinary wetland is one of the largest bogs in southern Ontario. A number of nationally and provincially significant species of plants and animals may be found in this endangered habitat. The trip will be limited to the first 15 people to register. Do so by telephoning the Club number (722-3050 after 10 a.m.) **at least ten days in advance** of the trip. This will be a **strenuous** all-day trip, so participants should be physically fit. Bring a lunch and insect repellent. Be prepared for a long, wet hike into the bog.

Sunday FERN IDENTIFICATION FIELD TRIP

5 July Leader: Bill Arthurs (225-6941)

1:00 p.m. Meet: Elmvale Shopping Centre, northeast corner of the parking lot.

This will be a general interest botanical outing along the New York Central right-of-way with a special emphasis on some of the local species of ferns.

Tuesday GENERAL INTEREST OUTING TO STONY SWAMP

7 July Leader: Fenja Brodo (225-7081)

9:30 a.m. Meet: Lincoln Heights Galleria, northeast corner of the parking lot (in the shade of the buildings), corner of Richmond and Assaly Roads.

The sights and sounds of early summer - an easy walk but be prepared to get your feet wet. Bring a lunch, insect repellent and waterproof footwear for this full-day outing.

Sunday BUS EXCURSION: CHAFFEY'S LOCKS
 12 July Leaders: Peter Hall and Roger Taylor
 8:00 a.m. Meet: Sears, Carlingwood Shopping Centre, Carling
 Avenue at Woodroffe Avenue.
 Cost: \$20.00
 This all-day, general interest trip in the Rideau
 Lakes district is one of the most popular Club out-
 ings. The area represents a transition zone where
 many southern species of plants and animals reach
 their northern limits. Our time will be spent ex-
 ploring various hiking trails at the Skycroft Outdoor
 Centre and the Queen's Biology Station. There will
 be an opportunity to swim for those who wish. The
 charge of \$20.00 will cover bus fare, use of the
 Skycroft facilities and the cost of the dinner pro-
 vided courtesy of the Biology Station. The chartered
 bus should return to Ottawa by 8 p.m. Register at
 least ten days in advance by sending a cheque or
 money order (payable to The Ottawa Field-Naturalists'
 Club) to Ellaine Dickson, 2037 Honeywell Avenue,
 Ottawa K2A 0P7. Please support the Club by taking
 the bus. If you do go by private car, you must still
 register for the meal (\$10.00) **in advance**. Remember
 to bring a lunch and insect repellent.

Date and NIGHT-FLYING MOTHS IN AUGUST
 time to be Leader: Don Lafontaine (225-1841)
 decided This trip will take place from 9:00 p.m. until mid-
 night on an evening in August when the weather ap-
 pears favourable. If you are interested in partici-
 pating, leave your name and phone number with the
 leader and he will contact you when a date and meet-
 ing place have been set. Don will attract a variety
 of moths to a sheet with a light and these will be
 identified with the aid of the Peterson Field Guide,
 A Field Guide to the Moths of Eastern North America.

Sunday LATE SUMMER WILDFLOWERS
 23 August Leaders: Rick Killeen and Suzanne Kettley
 8:30 a.m. Meet: Neatby Building, Central Experimental Farm,
 one block west of the Irving Place - Maple
 Drive spotlight on Carling Avenue. Use the
 parking lot west of the Neatby Building and
 south of the greenhouses.
 Emphasis will be on the identification of asters and
 goldenrods. Bring a lunch for this outing.

Saturday BIRDING IN THE WEST END
29 August Leader: Tom Hanrahan (230-5290)
7:00 a.m. Meet: Britannia Drive-In Theatre, Carling Avenue.
The emphasis will be on early fall migrants including shorebirds if the level of the Ottawa River is not too high. For this morning outing, binoculars are essential and waterproof footwear is advisable.

Saturday SHOREBIRDS AND WATERFOWL
5 Sept. Leader: Ray Holland (225-9655)
7:00 a.m. Meet: Britannia Drive-In Theatre, Carling Avenue.
Ducks and shorebirds along the Ottawa River will be the anticipated highlights. Binoculars are essential and waterproof footwear is recommended for this half-day outing.

Sunday FALL BIRD COUNT
6 Sept. Compilers: Bruce Di Labio (729-6267) and
Daniel Perrier (746-6716)
Participate in the annual count of the fall bird population within the 50-km radius circle of the Ottawa District. For details, telephone the compilers. (See the article in Trail & Landscape 20(5): 240-245 (1986) for the results of last year's count.)

Tuesday	OFNC MONTHLY MEETING
8 Sept.	MEMBERS' SLIDE NIGHT
8:00 p.m.	Meet: <u>Salon</u> , National Museum of Natural Sciences, Metcalf and McLeod Streets. Admission: At least one natural history slide or a 50¢ donation to the Alfred Bog Fund This popular annual event will provide an excellent chance to share your favourite natural history slides and reminiscences of trips, both local and far a- field, with fellow members. Any number of slides up to 15 will be welcome, and up to 15 minutes will be allotted for each presentation. Those bringing the mandatory one slide need not speak if they do not wish to do so. Those bringing more than one or two slides, please contact Rick Leavens (835-3336) to pre-arrange their presentations.

Wednesday BIRDING WITH GEORGE
9 Sept. Leader: George McGee (733-1739)
8:00 a.m. Meet: entrance gate to the Britannia Filtration
Plant.
Midweek birding for the retired but not-so-tired.
(People "playing hooky" are also welcome.) Bring
binoculars and waterproof footwear.

Sunday SEVENTH ANNUAL OFNC SEEDATHON
13 Sept. Support the OFNC bird feeding operations by sponsoring a birder on the annual OFNC Seedathon. For information, telephone Bruce Di Labio (729-6267). Send your pledges to: SEEDATHON, The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club, Box 3264, Postal Station C, Ottawa, Ontario K1Y 4J5.

Sunday ANNUAL PICNIC: BUS TRIP TO FITZROY PROVINCIAL PARK
13 Sept. Meet: Sears, Carlingwood Shopping Centre, Carling
8:00 a.m. Avenue at Woodroffe Avenue.
Cost: \$10.00
This beautiful spot on the banks of the Ottawa and Carp Rivers offers a rich blend of shrub thickets, open fields and second-growth forest. Mature Bur Oaks, Basswoods and 200-year-old White Pines dwarf the ferns and mushrooms on the forest floor below. Birds in migration and the resident small mammals await your discovery. Participants will be able to supplement their own picnic lunches with cheddar cheese, apples and cake, for which \$1.50 will be collected. Register by sending your cheque or money order (payable to The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club) to Elaine Dickson, 2037 Honeywell Avenue, Ottawa K2A 0P7 at least ten days in advance. If we don't have enough people registered for the bus trip by September 11, it will have to be cancelled. Please include your name, address, telephone number and the name of the trip when registering.

PEMBROKE FESTIVAL OF SWALLOWS

August 1 to 9, 1987

Members of the Pembroke and Area Bird Club invite Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club members to join with them in Pembroke at sunset as upwards of 100,000 swallows stage their spectacular aerobatic display. The best viewing time starts at 7:45 p.m. during the festival period. (For further information and a map, read *Trail & Landscape* 19(3): 141-142 (1985).)

Explore the bluebird trails, with over 600 boxes in the Pembroke area, and on August 7, 8 and 9 visit the Wildlife Art Show and Sale featuring over 60 nationally acclaimed and local artists. For further information, telephone Jacques Bouvier at (613) 735-0366.

DEADLINE: Material intended for the September-October issue must be in the Editor's hands before June 27 at the latest.

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